

c 13. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of effecting relative motion comprises moving the product package template cavities beneath the funnel such that each of the desired template cavities is placed beneath the funnel.

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**REMARKS**

In response to the office action dated Dec. 12, 2001, applicants have submitted herewith a Request for Continued Examination along with the present amendment. Applicants submit that original claims 1-6, as well as the newly submitted claims, are patentable over the art of record.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 USC §103. Applicants submit that the references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants' presently claimed invention. Applicants' claimed invention is directed to improved systems and methods for filling solid pharmaceutical product packaging materials. Claim 1 describes the invention as including steps of automatically selectively dispensing one or more solid pharmaceutical products from multiple drug sources into corresponding individual product package template cavities and thereafter automatically transferring the solid pharmaceuticals in the product package template cavities into corresponding cavities of a product package member.

Newly submitted claim 7 further specifies that the method includes a step of effecting the relative motion between a funnel and individual product package template cavities. The funnel is fed by the plural drug sources. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior of record, fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

Applicants submit that neither the Bouthiette reference nor the Knudsen provide any teach or suggestion regarding the automated filling of multiple product package template

cavities as described and claimed in the present application. More specifically, both of the cited references relate to the manual manipulation of solid pharmaceuticals for placement into a product package. See specifically, the Knudsen patent in column 13 line 35 and following wherein it states: "an individual using the fingers and thumb of one hand manipulates a pill, tablet, capsule or other small object from each loading tray 130 into the adjacent pockets 10 of the carrying strip." The remaining Bouthiette reference similarly provides no teaching or suggestion regarding automated operation as described and claimed in the present application. Furthermore, Applicants note that neither these references nor the remaining references of record provide any teaching or suggestion regarding the claimed relative motion between a common funnel and plural package template cavity members as claimed in new claims 7-13. Accordingly, these newly submitted claims are allowable over the art of record for yet additional reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections set forth by the Examiner are improper and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner now allow all of the claims in the application.

**CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

Applicant has concurrently submitted herewith a Change of Correspondence Address (PTO/SB/122) and requests that all future correspondence be directed to the attention of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 11, 2002

  
(Reg. #37,697)  
Robert J. Depke  
**HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP**  
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 800  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Tel: (312) 422-9050  
**Attorney for Applicants**



**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL866573536US on June 11, 2002 in an envelope addressed to:

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Attorney for Applicants

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